

**BOARD OF MEDICAL LICENSURE AND DISCIPLINE  
FULL BOARD  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2011**

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

**Board members in attendance:**

**Michael Fine, MD – Chair**

**Patrick C. Barry, Esq. (public member)**

**Robert E. Baute, MD**

**Thomas G. Breslin, MD**

**Mary Reich Cooper, MD, JD**

**Margaret Coughlin (public member)**

**Joan A. Crawley (public member)**

**Charles Cronin, DO**

**Richard P. Iacobucci, MD**

**Absent:**

**Norm Chapman, (public member)**

**Maya Colantuono (public member)**

**Robert Dinwoodie, DO**

**Noubar Kessimian, MD**

**Staff in Attendance:**

**Bruce McIntyre, JD, Acting Chief Administrative Officer**

## **Amy DiFilippo - Administrative Officer**

**1. A quorum was established at 8:47 a.m.**

**2. On a motion by Dr. Baute, seconded by Dr. Cooper, it was voted to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2011 Licensing Committee meeting.**

**3. On a motion by Dr. Cronin, seconded by Mrs. Crawley, it was voted to accept the minutes of the July 13, 2011 Full Board Open Session meeting.**

### **4. Chief Administrative Officer's Report**

**Medical Marijuana Subcommittee – The Medical Marijuana guidelines were disseminated to the Board for discussion after recommendation of the subcommittee. Dr. Iacobucci began the discussion by stating his opposition to physician involvement in medical marijuana. He pointed to the opinions of the American College of Physicians (ACP) and the American Medical Association (AMA), which opposes physician involvement for medical and scientific reasons. A lively discussion was held wherein most members voiced agreement with his statements. Patrick Barry moved to send the issue back to subcommittee for consideration of a preamble statement as follows:**

**The primary charge of the Department of Health, Board of Medical**

**Licensing and Discipline, is to protect the public. Part of fulfilling that charge is to educate both patients and medical providers. So called “medical marijuana” has not been the subject of traditional scientific studies of efficacy, safety, or even the balance of relative risks versus benefits of any disease or condition. In addition, smoking of any kind creates dangerous compounds that are then consumed by the smoker. Current Rhode Island and Federal law do not provide for the prescription of medical marijuana. Prescribing marijuana remains illegal, as marijuana has not undergone the rigorous FDA screening and approval process. The current RI State Law only allows a physician to authorize the possession of marijuana.**

**Dr. Baute seconded the motion. The motion passed with 6-1 in favor; Dr. Iacobucci was opposed.**

**Dr. Iacobucci made a motion to voice the position of the Board to the State legislature. Dr. Baute substituted a motion to modify the medical marijuana standards to include semi-annual examinations and to table the statement to State legislature. Dr. Baute’s motion passed 4-2 in favor. Dr. Iacobucci and Patrick Barry were not in favor.**

**5. Old Business – none**

**6. New Business:**

**Physician Compounding – The Board of Pharmacy (BOP) has voiced concerns regarding Oncology/Monoclonal Antibody Compounding and Automated Processing Dispensaries. There have been recent incidents in which the BOP has discovered, while on inspection, unsafe environments in physician offices where compounding is**

taking place (i.e. non-sterile environments, improper ventilation with hoods, etc.). It is suggested that both Boards (BOP & BMLD) work together to form a joint review committee in the best interest of patient safety. Bruce McIntyre asked for physician volunteers from the Medical Board to sit on this joint committee. Dr. Iacobucci and Dr. Cooper volunteered.

7. There being no further business, Mrs. Coughlin made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Dr. Cooper seconded the motion; all were in favor. The meeting adjourned to Executive Session pursuant to Sections 46-42-4 and 42-46-5 of the R.I.G.L.